

Minnesota Wild at Buffalo Sabres

NHL | Regular | October 6, 2026

Checked Oct 06, 01:08 PM Toronto | prepared snapshot, not live

Away	Minnesota Wild
Home	Buffalo Sabres
Venue	KeyBank Center, Buffalo, NY, USA
Scheduled start	Oct 06, 07:00 PM Toronto
Game evidence	S1 source event 401892453

Provisional prediction

Expected score	Minnesota Wild 3.2 - Buffalo Sabres 3.3
Winner lean	Buffalo Sabres model probability 51.9%
Margin / total	Home minus away +0.1 goals; total 6.5
Spread meaning	Model margin, not a bookmaker spread or a claim of value.

Lineups not fully set. Historical scoring baseline; probable personnel shown as context, not numeric adjustments. Probabilities are uncalibrated model estimates.

What matters in this matchup

Minnesota Wild: 2 completed current-season games; 2 wins, 7 goals for and 2 against. Read the shot, special-teams and scoring-state reviews before interpreting the record.

Buffalo Sabres: 2 completed current-season games; 1 wins, 7 goals for and 9 against. Read the shot, special-teams and scoring-state reviews before interpreting the record.

Tonight's goalie and line decisions can change the outlook. The experimental baseline below does not adjust for confirmed goalies, missing players or opponent shot quality.

Use and confidence

Early research estimate. Small winner differences are weak leans; model probability is not proven accuracy. Recheck personnel and current prices before relying on it.

1. Availability and playing conditions

Minnesota Wild - away

Jesper Wallstedt - LISTED - NOT CONFIRMED [S1]

Goalie names in a statistics feed can be candidates or past participants. They are not confirmed starters unless a direct confirmation is recorded.

Captured injury listings [S1]

Player	Reported status / issue	Source effective date
Danila Yurov	Day-To-Day / Upper Body	2026-10-05T15:51Z
Brock Faber	Injured Reserve / Skull	2026-09-29T16:21Z
Filip Gustavsson	Injured Reserve / Hip	2026-09-28T21:28Z

Final lineup, scratches, replacement roles and any restrictions still require a near-start check. Listed return dates are not clearance.

Buffalo Sabres - home

Colten Ellis - REPORTED STARTER - NAMED BEAT REPORT [S2]; Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen - LISTED - NOT CONFIRMED [S1]

Colten Ellis reported to start by Mike Harrington via RotoWire. The statistics snapshot lists Luukkonen; final team confirmation remains pending.

Goalie names in a statistics feed can be candidates or past participants. They are not confirmed starters unless a direct confirmation is recorded.

Captured injury listings [S1]

Player	Reported status / issue	Source effective date
Jason Zucker	Injured Reserve / Abdomen	2026-10-06T15:10Z
Alex Lyon	Injured Reserve / Upper Body	2026-10-06T15:07Z
Conor Timmins	Injured Reserve / Lower Body	2026-09-29T17:28Z
Topias Leinonen	Injured Reserve / Lower Body	2026-09-28T20:58Z
Jack Rathbone	Injured Reserve / Undisclosed	2026-09-28T20:52Z

Final lineup, scratches, replacement roles and any restrictions still require a near-start check. Listed return dates are not clearance.

Location and conditions

Indoor arena: outdoor wind and precipitation are not direct playing-surface inputs. Travel disruption was not assessed. [S1]

Rest and travel

Minnesota Wild: last completed phase game 2026-10-03, 2 full calendar off-days; Buffalo Sabres: last completed phase game 2026-10-03, 2 full calendar off-days. Actual travel itinerary, time-zone adaptation and numerical fatigue effect are unverified.

2. Minnesota Wild - recent game evidence

Current regular chronology [S3]

Date	Opponent / venue role	Score (team first)
2026-10-01	Nashville Predators / away	3-1
2026-10-03	Boston Bruins / home	4-1

NHL: every completed regular-season game in the current source schedule is summarized below. NBA: available preseason games only. MLB: every completed current postseason game, not a claim of reviewing all 162 regular-season games.

2026-10-01 | away vs Nashville Predators | W 3-1 (Final)

Period/quarter/inning scores, team first: 1: 2-0; 2: 0-1; 3: 1-0 [S4]

Metric	Team	Opponent
Shots total	30	20
Power play goals	1	0
Power play opportunities	4	4
Giveaways	14	16
Penalty minutes	8	8

Recorded scoring sequence: P1 9:35 1-0 Even Strength; P1 13:48 2-0 Power Play; P2 9:23 2-1 Even Strength; P3 4:42 3-1 Even Strength

Bobby Brink: Goals 0, Assists 1, Shots total 2, Time on ice 11:37. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Blake Coleman: Goals 1, Assists 0, Shots total 2, Time on ice 13:44. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Nick Foligno: Goals 1, Assists 0, Shots total 2, Time on ice 12:29. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Interpretation: Shot margin +10. The result and shot-volume advantage point in the same direction.

Interpretation: These observations describe this game; opponent adjustment and stable repeatability have not been established.

2026-10-03 | home vs Boston Bruins | W 4-1 (Final)

Period/quarter/inning scores, team first: 1: 0-1; 2: 2-0; 3: 2-0 [S5]

Metric	Team	Opponent
Shots total	30	27
Power play goals	2	0
Power play opportunities	3	3
Giveaways	20	24
Penalty minutes	6	6

Recorded scoring sequence: P1 1:53 0-1 Even Strength; P2 6:11 1-1 Power Play; P2 12:28 2-1 Power Play; P3 3:24 3-1 Even Strength; P3 18:59 4-1 Empty Net

Kirill Kaprizov: Goals 2, Assists 0, Shots total 3, Time on ice 18:49. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Quinn Hughes: Goals 1, Assists 1, Shots total 4, Time on ice 22:23. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Bobby Brink: Goals 0, Assists 1, Shots total 1, Time on ice 11:17. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Interpretation: Shot margin +3. The result and shot-volume advantage point in the same direction.

Interpretation: These observations describe this game; opponent adjustment and stable repeatability have not been established.

Evidence limit: score-state and box-score review does not by itself establish tactics, quality of chances, causal luck, or opponent-adjusted team strength.

2. Buffalo Sabres - recent game evidence

Current regular chronology [S6]

Date	Opponent / venue role	Score (team first)
2026-10-01	Columbus Blue Jackets / away	3-6
2026-10-03	Chicago Blackhawks / home	4-3

NHL: every completed regular-season game in the current source schedule is summarized below. NBA: available preseason games only. MLB: every completed current postseason game, not a claim of reviewing all 162 regular-season games.

2026-10-01 | away vs Columbus Blue Jackets | L 3-6 (Final)

Period/quarter/inning scores, team first: 1: 1-3; 2: 2-1; 3: 0-2 [S7]

Metric	Team	Opponent
Shots total	26	23
Power play goals	0	2
Power play opportunities	5	3
Giveaways	15	13
Penalty minutes	11	15

Recorded scoring sequence: P1 7:21 1-0 Even Strength; P1 12:51 1-1 Even Strength; P1 17:58 1-2 Power Play; P1 18:44 1-3 Even Strength; P2 1:25 2-3 Even Strength; P2 7:45 2-4 Even Strength; P2 13:14 3-4 Even Strength; P3 14:21 3-5 Power Play; P3 17:53 3-6 Empty Net

Noah Ostlund: Goals 0, Assists 2, Shots total 3, Time on ice 16:42. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Owen Power: Goals 0, Assists 2, Shots total 0, Time on ice 25:25. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Zach Benson: Goals 0, Assists 1, Shots total 1, Time on ice 18:34. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Interpretation: Shot margin +3. Final score and shot volume do not tell the same story; finishing and goaltending need separate review.

Interpretation: These observations describe this game; opponent adjustment and stable repeatability have not been established.

2026-10-03 | home vs Chicago Blackhawks | W 4-3 (Final)

Period/quarter/inning scores, team first: 1: 1-2; 2: 1-1; 3: 2-0 [S8]

Metric	Team	Opponent
Shots total	28	15
Power play goals	0	0
Power play opportunities	3	2
Giveaways	22	18
Penalty minutes	4	6

Recorded scoring sequence: P1 7:59 0-1 Even Strength; P1 11:24 0-2 Even Strength; P1 16:24 1-2 Even Strength; P2 5:41 2-2 Even Strength; P2 18:18 2-3 Even Strength; P3 6:10 3-3 Even Strength; P3 13:20 4-3 Even Strength

Tagge Thompson: Goals 1, Assists 1, Shots total 4, Time on ice 19:41. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Peyton Krebs: Goals 0, Assists 1, Shots total 1, Time on ice 13:42. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Jiri Kulich: Goals 1, Assists 0, Shots total 1, Time on ice 13:31. Historical game participation; not tonight's confirmation.

Interpretation: Shot margin +13. The result and shot-volume advantage point in the same direction.

Interpretation: These observations describe this game; opponent adjustment and stable repeatability have not been established.

Evidence limit: score-state and box-score review does not by itself establish tactics, quality of chances, causal luck, or opponent-adjusted team strength.

3. Matchup interpretation and key players

Minnesota Wild

Current phase: 2 games, 2 wins; scoring average 3.50 for / 1.00 against. These are descriptive averages, not projected scores.

Current feed metric	Value
Avg goals	3.50
Avg goals against	1.00
Avg shots	30.0
Avg shots against	23.5
Power play pct	42.9
Penalty kill pct	100.0

Feed season scope: 2 completed current-phase games in the captured schedule; metrics are all-strength where supplied. No five-on-five xG model is inferred. [S1]

Buffalo Sabres

Current phase: 2 games, 1 wins; scoring average 3.50 for / 4.50 against. These are descriptive averages, not projected scores.

Current feed metric	Value
Avg goals	3.50
Avg goals against	4.50
Avg shots	27.0
Avg shots against	19.0
Power play pct	0.0
Penalty kill pct	60.0

Feed season scope: 2 completed current-phase games in the captured schedule; metrics are all-strength where supplied. No five-on-five xG model is inferred. [S1]

How to read the matchup

Compare the two recent-game sections: did score and underlying volume agree, did the game change late, and did current absences affect the players producing those numbers? Where shot-quality, possession or bullpen detail is missing, the report cannot declare a repeatable style edge.

Conditional game scripts

If one team sustains a shot-volume and special-teams advantage, it has a plausible territorial route to scoring. A different goalie, changed lines or poor conversion can break that route. This is a conditional scenario, not a claim that tonight's deployment is confirmed.

4. Executed simulations and prediction limits

EXPERIMENTAL TEAM-SCORE BASELINE. This run is real and reproducible, but is not adjusted for the personnel, injuries, game-flow evidence, weather or tactical factors described in this report. It supplies the provisional prediction on page one; no accuracy or betting edge is established.	
Scenario win share	Minnesota Wild 48.1% Buffalo Sabres 51.9%
Average sampled score	Minnesota Wild 3.18 Buffalo Sabres 3.33
Total scenarios	Mean 6.51; central 80% sampled totals 3-10
Trials / seed	100,000 / 1043330860
Raw ties	15.7%; assumed 50/50 winner split
Run completed	2026-10-06T17:08:30.489100+00:00
Input hash	See retained JSON run record

Method: pooled venue scoring/conceding moments; independent negative-binomial draws where overdispersed, otherwise Poisson. For NHL, current completed regular-season results augment the preserved prior sample. NBA preseason estimates explicitly transfer preserved regular-season scoring without a rotation model. There is no opponent-strength, roster, goalie/pitcher or recency adjustment. Historical NHL overtime/shootout scores are included; raw ties are not regulation ties. MLB postseason transfer remains unvalidated.

Monte Carlo repeat-run error approximately +/- 0.31 percentage points at 95%. This only measures simulation noise; it excludes model and input uncertainty. No accuracy, calibration or ROI is claimed.

Minnesota Wild: 84 historical qualifying games; 42 in this venue role. Latest input 2026-10-04T00:00Z.

Buffalo Sabres: 84 historical qualifying games; 42 in this venue role. Latest input 2026-10-03T23:00Z.

Spread and total probabilities

DraftKings via ESPN, captured 2026-10-06T17:00:45.172706+00:00 [S1]. Snapshot, not a live available offer.

Captured spread	Buffalo Sabres +1.5; model cover 74.1%; away cover 25.9%; push 0.0%
Captured total	6.5; model over 47.5%; under 52.5%; push 0.0%

These fractions come from the same uncalibrated score scenarios. Price, bookmaker availability and edge are not established. NHL historical shootout scores and fair random tie breaking are a proxy, not exact sportsbook settlement.

Conditional player-prop outlook

Matt Boldy | Minnesota Wild

Conditional expected shots on goal: 4.5; 3+ probability 82.6%. Observed sample 2 games: 5.0, 4.0.

Only if dressed with similar ice time; lineup/role not confirmed. No current bookmaker player line captured.

Poisson with observed current-season per-appearance mean; tiny-sample and role uncertainty unmodeled. Opportunity sensitivity: 3.6-5.4. +/-20% opportunity is an explicit illustrative assumption, not measured uncertainty. Sources: S4, S5

Quinn Hughes | Minnesota Wild

Conditional expected shots on goal: 4.5; 3+ probability 82.6%. Observed sample 2 games: 5.0, 4.0.

Only if dressed with similar ice time; lineup/role not confirmed. No current bookmaker player line captured.

Poisson with observed current-season per-appearance mean; tiny-sample and role uncertainty unmodeled. Opportunity sensitivity: 3.6-5.4. +/-20% opportunity is an explicit illustrative assumption, not measured uncertainty. Sources: S4, S5

Michael McCarron | Minnesota Wild

Conditional expected shots on goal: 4.0; 3+ probability 76.2%. Observed sample 2 games: 4.0, 4.0.

Only if dressed with similar ice time; lineup/role not confirmed. No current bookmaker player line captured.

Poisson with observed current-season per-appearance mean; tiny-sample and role uncertainty unmodeled. Opportunity sensitivity: 3.2-4.8. +/-20% opportunity is an explicit illustrative assumption, not measured uncertainty. Sources: S4, S5

Jack Quinn | Buffalo Sabres

Conditional expected shots on goal: 4.5; 3+ probability 82.6%. Observed sample 2 games: 4.0, 5.0.

Only if dressed with similar ice time; lineup/role not confirmed. No current bookmaker player line captured.

Poisson with observed current-season per-appearance mean; tiny-sample and role uncertainty unmodeled. Opportunity sensitivity: 3.6-5.4. +/-20% opportunity is an explicit illustrative assumption, not measured uncertainty. Sources: S7, S8

Tage Thompson | Buffalo Sabres

Conditional expected shots on goal: 4.0; 3+ probability 76.2%. Observed sample 2 games: 4.0, 4.0.

Only if dressed with similar ice time; lineup/role not confirmed. No current bookmaker player line captured.

Poisson with observed current-season per-appearance mean; tiny-sample and role uncertainty unmodeled. Opportunity sensitivity: 3.2-4.8. +/-20% opportunity is an explicit illustrative assumption, not measured uncertainty. Sources: S7, S8

Rasmus Dahlin | Buffalo Sabres

Conditional expected shots on goal: 3.5; 3+ probability 67.9%. Observed sample 2 games: 4.0, 3.0.

Only if dressed with similar ice time; lineup/role not confirmed. No current bookmaker player line captured.

Poisson with observed current-season per-appearance mean; tiny-sample and role uncertainty unmodeled. Opportunity sensitivity: 2.8-4.2. +/-20% opportunity is an explicit illustrative assumption, not measured uncertainty. Sources: S7, S8

What changes the prediction

Different starter; scratch or minutes restriction; changed batting order/rotation; material weather change; corrected source results. The current model does not recompute player-specific team adjustments. This prepared report does not refresh itself.

5. Sources and freshness

Source numbers refer to the captured snapshots below. This is a prepared report; personnel and conditions may change before the game.

S1 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:45.172706+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/summary?event=401892453>

S2 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:18:06.512646+00:00

<https://aws-prod-web9.rotowire.com/hockey/player/colten-ellis-6142>

S3 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:46.840536+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/teams/30/schedule?season=2027&seasontype=2>

S4 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:49.796117+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/summary?event=401891816>

S5 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:51.752662+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/summary?event=401891814>

S6 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:47.035988+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/teams/2/schedule?season=2027&seasontype=2>

S7 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:51.876157+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/summary?event=401891781>

S8 | fetched 2026-10-06T17:00:51.991902+00:00

<https://site.api.espn.com/apis/site/v2/sports/hockey/nhl/summary?event=401891776>

Release status: PROVISIONAL RESEARCH. Predictions and conditional prop scenarios are experimental and unvalidated. All 23 catalog entries remain DRAFT; validated forecasts remain disabled.